

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application

1. (Currently Amended) A method for enabling management of contacts, the method comprising:

passively recognizing that a [[set]] plurality of contacts are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by a member;

identifying, to the member, the [[set]] plurality of contacts that has been passively recognized as a [[set]] plurality of contacts that are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by the member;

based on passively recognizing that the [[set]] plurality of contacts are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by the member, generating a contacts list that includes the [[set]] plurality of contacts and that is useful in addressing future communications to the [[set]] plurality of contacts as a group;

enabling the member to associate a name with the contacts list; and

enabling the member to address future communications to the [[set]] plurality of contacts, as a group, through use of the name associated by the member with the contacts list.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein passively recognizing that the [[set]] plurality of contacts are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by the member comprises:

storing communications sent by the member during a period of time;

examining the communications sent by the member during the period of time;

and

identifying that the [[set]] plurality of contacts was sent at least a minimum number of communications by the member during the period of time.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein passively recognizing that the [[set]] plurality of contacts are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by the member comprises:

storing a predetermined number of communications sent by the member;

examining the predetermined number of communications sent by the member;

and

identifying that the [[set]] plurality of contacts was sent at least a minimum number of communications out of the predetermined number of communications by the member.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising enabling the member to accept or to reject the generation of the contacts list.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising enabling the member to delay the generation of a rejected contacts list.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising enabling the member to assign a unique identifier to the contacts list.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the member to address future communications to the ~~[[set]]~~ plurality of contacts through use of the name associated by the member with the list of contacts comprises enabling the member to address future communications to the ~~[[set]]~~ plurality of contacts from multiple applications through the use of the name associated by the member with the list of contacts.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the multiple applications include communications applications.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the communications applications include an e-mail application and at least one application other than an e-mail application.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the communications applications include an instant messaging application and at least one application other than an instant messaging application.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the communications applications include a digital image sharing application and at least one application other than a digital image sharing application.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the communications applications include an alerting application that sends alerts and reminders to users and at least one application other than an alerting application that sends alerts and reminders to users.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the communications applications include an application for sharing and exchanging contact information and at least one application other than an application for sharing and exchanging contact information.

14. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the multiple applications include other sharing applications.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the other sharing applications include an electronic calendar application and at least one application other than an electronic calendar application.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the other sharing applications include an electronic journal application and at least one application other than an electronic journal application.

17. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the other sharing applications include an e-mail filtering application and at least one application other than an e-mail filtering application.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the other sharing applications include an application that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account and at least one application other than an application that enables the specification of parental controls over a child account.

19. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a machine result in at least the following:

passively recognizing that a [[set]] plurality of contacts are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by a member;

identifying, to the member, the [[set]] plurality of contacts that has been passively recognized as a [[set]] plurality of contacts that are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by the member;

based on passively recognizing that the [[set]] plurality of contacts are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by the member, generating a contacts list that includes the [[set]] plurality of contacts and that is useful in addressing future communications to the [[set]] plurality of contacts as a group;

enabling the member to associate a name with the contacts list; and

enabling the member to address future communications to the [[set]] plurality of contacts, as a group, through use of the name associated by the member with the contacts list.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling management of contacts comprising:

means for passively recognizing that a [[set]] plurality of contacts are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by a member;

means for identifying, to the member, the [[set]] plurality of contacts that has been passively recognized as a [[set]] plurality of contacts that are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by the member;

means for generating a contacts list that includes the [[set]] plurality of contacts based on passively recognizing that the [[set]] plurality of contacts are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by the member, the contacts list being useful in addressing future communications to the [[set]] plurality of contacts as a group;

means for enabling the member to associate a name with the contacts list; and
means for enabling the member to address future communications to the [[set]] plurality of contacts, as a group, through use of the name associated by the member with the contacts list.

21. (New) A method for enabling management of contacts, the method comprising:

passively recognizing that a plurality of contacts are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by a member;

identifying, to the member, the plurality of contacts that has been passively recognized as a plurality of contacts that are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by the member;

based on passively recognizing that the plurality of contacts are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by the member, generating a contacts list that includes the plurality of contacts and that is useful in addressing future communications to the plurality of contacts as a group, wherein the contacts list includes identifiers corresponding to the contacts;

enabling the member to associate a name with the contacts list;

enabling the member to address future communications to the plurality of contacts, as a group, through use of the name associated by the member with the contacts list; and

enabling the member to share a copy of the contacts list with an additional user through use of the name associated with the contacts list.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein passively recognizing that the plurality of contacts are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by the member comprises:

storing communications sent by the member during a period of time;

examining the communications sent by the member during the period of time;

and

identifying that the plurality of contacts was sent at least a minimum number of communications by the member during the period of time.

23. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein passively recognizing that the plurality of contacts are, as a group, repeatedly sent communications by the member comprises:

storing a predetermined number of communications sent by the member;

examining the predetermined number of communications sent by the member;

and

identifying that the plurality of contacts was sent at least a minimum number of communications out of the predetermined number of communications by the member.

24. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein enabling the member to address future communications to the plurality of contacts through use of the name associated by the member with the list of contacts comprises enabling the member to address future communications to the plurality of contacts from multiple applications including at least one of an e-mail application, an instant messaging application, a digital image sharing application, an alerting application that sends alerts and reminders to users, and an application for sharing and exchanging contact.

25. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the method further comprises:

providing instructions to update the generated contacts list, wherein the shared copy of the contacts list is automatically updated in response to updating of the generated contacts list.

26. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the method further comprises:

receiving a communication sent to the member, the communication including an identifier of the sender;

comparing the identifier of the sender with the identifiers corresponding to the contacts; and

determining whether the sent communication is spam based on a result of the comparison.